

REMARKS

The Patent Examiner's objection to the drawing has been duly noted and corrected by resubmitting a new sheet of drawing containing FIGS. 4 and 4A. Specifically, the guides previously numbered 70 and 72 have been renumbered 71 and 73. The patent specification on page 6 has also been corrected to reflect this correction.

Claim 1, one of the two independent claims in the instant application, has been amended to incorporate the limitations of previously submitted claim 3 and is, therefore, allowable as indicated by the Patent Examiner.

New independent claim 14 is also submitted at this time for consideration and allowance by the Patent Examiner. New claim 14 corresponds to previously submitted claim 4. The Patent Examiner, however, has previously rejected claim 4 as unpatentable over either of the McKay patents in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,639,965 to Suzuki. Applicant, however, respectfully submits that this basis for rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

More specifically, new claim 14 clearly sets forth that the roller support includes a pair of diametrically opposed longitudinally extending slots and that the handle includes a pair of outwardly extending guides which are slidably mounted within the slots. The Suzuki patent, however, simply does not teach or render obvious this construction.

More specifically, the handle 5 of Suzuki includes an elongated slot 7 which cooperates with guides 8 formed in the Suzuki brush. This, of course, is the opposite of Applicant's invention as it is now defined in claim 14.

The Patent Examiner has suggested that it would be obvious to reverse the location of a guide in guide grooves "to eliminate recesses on the handle that can collect debris". That, however, is not the point.

First, Applicant is not concerned about the accumulation of debris on the handle since, as a practical matter, the handle is retracted within the interior of the roller support for most of the time when not in use. As such, the elimination of debris on the handle is of no concern to Applicant.

A primary advantage of Applicant's design, however, is that the elongated slots formed in the roller support not only simplify the assembly of the lint roller, but also conserve material cost, i.e. the elimination of the material that would normally be present in Applicant's elongated slots in the roller support. This, in turn, enables Applicant to enjoy a less expensive construction and yet a construction that is at least as effective, if not more so, than the retractable handle design of the Suzuki patent.

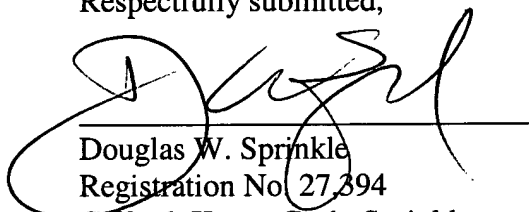
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 14 patentably defines Applicant's invention over the prior art references of record and is, therefore, allowable. New claims 15-19 all depend from claim 14 and are, therefore, also allowable.

Also submitted for consideration at this time by the Patent Examiner and allowance is new claim 20. New claim 20 corresponds to old claim 2 but with the additional limitation of means for locking the handle in the second position. As such, Applicant's handle may be either locked in its extended or its retracted position.

There is no structure in the Suzuki patent which corresponds to Applicant's invention as it is now defined in claim 20. Rather, in the Suzuki patent, the handle is locked to the brush portion only in its extended position. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 20 is allowable over the prior art.

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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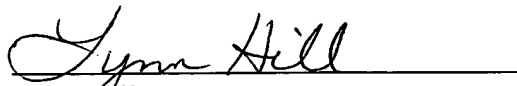
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